

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00489 211349Z

53

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 SP-02 EB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7056

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0489

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TSPA, PINS, MA, US

SUBJECT: US-MALAGASY RELATIONS: NASA STATION AND AID RAILROAD
LOAN

REFS: A. TANANARIVE 0460; B. TANANARIVE 0463 (NOTAL);
TANANARIVE 0485

1. RESTORATION OF NASA STATION COMMUNICATIONS (WHICH NOW OPERATING) REPRESENTS ANDRIAMAHAZO VICTORY OVER RATSIRAKA WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY. CLEAR SIGNAL HAS BEEN GIVEN THAT OUR HANDLING OF U.S. AID POSSIBILITIES WITH ANDRIAMAHAZO (REF A) PLACE HIM IN POSITION TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH DIRECTORY AND TAKE DECISION ON NASA COMMUNICATIONS.

2. EMBASSY NOW RECOMMENDS THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED PROCEED CONCLUDE A.I.D. RAILROAD LOAN AGREEMENT OF \$3 MILLION WITH GOMR. WE HAVE ANDRIAMAHAZO'S ASSURANCE THAT NASA STATION WILL REMAIN IN MADAGASCAR AS LONG AS HE IS IN POWER. PROCEEDING WITH RAILROAD LOAN WOULD CONSTITUTE SIGN OF OUR FAITH IN, AND SUPPORT OF, HIM. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO PUT HIM IN BETTER POSITION TO OBTAIN DIRECTORY CONCURRENCE IN HIS ACCEPTANCE OF NASA RENTAL OFFER OF \$100,000 PER YEAR FROM 1973 ON.

MENDENHALL
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PAGE 02 TANANA 00489 211349Z

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